

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for deleting automatic delegate reply messages, comprising:
2 receiving a delegate reply message provided in response to a sent electronic mail
3 message to at least one recipient terminal; and
4 deleting the opened delegate reply message.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 deleting other delegate reply messages provided in response to the same sent electronic
3 mail message if the other automatic delegate reply messages have substantially the same
4 message identifier as the opened delegate reply message.

- 1 3. A computer readable medium for storing a software program that, when executed
2 by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for automatically deleting
3 delegate reply messages, the method comprising:
4 transmitting an electronic mail message to at least one recipient;
5 receiving a delegate reply message provided in response to the electronic mail
6 message;
7 identifying a related delegate reply message; and
8 automatically deleting the related delegate reply message.

- 1 4. The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:
2 transmitting the electronic mail message to a plurality of recipients;
3 receiving a first delegate reply message from the plurality of recipients; and
4 receiving a second delegate reply message from the plurality of recipients.

- 1 5. The computer program product of claim 4, wherein the electronic mail message is
2 associated with a mail message identifier.

- 1 6. The computer program product of claim 5, wherein the first delegate reply message
2 and the second delegate reply message are associated with the mail message identifier.

1 7. The computer program product of claim 6, wherein the method further comprises
2 comparing the mail message identifier associated with the first delegate reply message to
3 the mail message identifier associated with the second delegate reply message.

1 8. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the mail message identifier
2 comprises sender and timestamp information for the electronic mail message.

1 9. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the mail message identifier
2 comprises at least one of the identity of the sender of the electronic mail message, a date on
3 which the electronic mail message was sent, a time at which the electronic mail message
4 was sent, and an identity of the terminal from which the electronic mail message was sent.

1 10. The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises
2 receiving a selection to automatically delete related delegate reply messages.

1 11. The computer program product of claim 10, further comprising deleting the
2 delegate reply message

1 12. The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:
2 receiving an electronic message; and
3 determining whether the electronic message is a delegate reply message.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:
2 determining whether another of the at least one recipients has sent a second
3 delegate reply message in response to the electronic mail message.

1 14. The computer readable medium of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:
2 deleting other delegate reply messages provided in response to the same sent
3 electronic mail message if the other automatic delegate reply messages have substantially
4 the same message identifier as the opened delegate reply message.

- 1 15. A computer readable medium for storing a software program that, when executed
- 2 by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method comprising:
- 3 receiving a delegate reply message provided in response to a sent electronic mail
- 4 message to at least one recipient terminal; and
- 5 deleting the opened delegate reply message.

- 1 16. The computer readable medium of claim 15, further comprising:
- 2 deleting other delegate reply messages provided in response to the same sent
- 3 electronic mail message if the other automatic delegate reply messages have substantially
- 4 the same message identifier as the opened delegate reply message.